

Serial No.: 10/701,038

Atty.Dkt. No.: CLFR:235US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An isolated and purified polypeptide of *Ehrlichia canis* immunoreactive surface protein p153 ~~encoded for by DNA~~ selected from the group consisting of:

(a) ~~an isolated DNA which encodes a p153 protein polypeptide~~ having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) ~~isolated DNA differing from the isolated DNA of (a) in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code;~~

[[~~(c)~~]](b) ~~an isolated DNA sequence polypeptide comprising nucleotides 1080 to 1990 of *Ehrlichia canis* immunoreactive surface protein p153~~ having amino acids 361 to 663 of Genbank accession number AF252298 (GI:37528969);

[[~~(d)~~]](c) ~~an isolated DNA sequence polypeptide comprising nucleotides 1080 to 1990 of *Ehrlichia canis* immunoreactive surface protein p153~~ having amino acids 651 to 983 of Genbank accession number AF252298 (GI:37528969); and

[[~~(e)~~]](d) ~~an isolated DNA sequence polypeptide comprising nucleotides 1080 to 1990 of *Ehrlichia canis* immunoreactive surface protein p153~~ having amino acids 981 to 1406 of Genbank accession number AF252298 (GI:37528969).

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7-14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A composition comprising a p153 polypeptide of claim 6.

16-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the protein is immobilized on a surface.

28. (previously presented) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the surface is a membrane.

29. (previously presented) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the surface is a microtiter plate.

30. (currently amended) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the polypeptide is an *Ehrlichia canis* immunoreactive surface protein p153 polypeptide of Genbank accession number AF252298 (GI:37528969).

31. (previously presented) A composition comprising a p153 polypeptide of claim 30.

32. (previously presented) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim 30, wherein the protein is immobilized on a surface.

33. (currently amended) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim ~~[[30]]~~32, wherein the surface is a membrane.34. (currently amended) The isolated and purified polypeptide of claim ~~[[30]]~~32, wherein the surface is a microtiter plate.